GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3495
ANSWERED ON:07.04.2003
FIRE IN SHIP BREAKING YARD
CHANDRESH PATEL KORDIA

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether an incident of fire in a ship in the ship breaking yard in Bhavnagar district of Gujarat was reported on February 22, 2003;

(b) if so, the cause of the fire alongwith the details of loss of life and property;

(c) the compensation paid and the facilities provided to the family members of those killed and injured;

(d) whether any probe is being carried out in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The probable cause of fire was a flammable gas exploision in the engine room of a ship which had been beached for breaking. Entire Engine room and accommodation got burnt due to fire. Seven persons died and three persons were injured.

(c) The ship breaker has paid Rs. one lakh per head to the legal heirs of the deceased. An additional amount will be paid to the legal heirs of the deceased and injured as decided by the insurance company and the Court.

(d)&(e): Yes, Sir. A detailed probe is being carried out by the Gujarat Maritime Board, Forensic Science Laboratory, Factory Inspector and Police Department. According to the preliminary enquiry report prepared jointly by the Fire Officer and the Port Officer, the fire broke out in the engine room of the ship at about 14.15 hours on 22nd February, 2003. Efforts to put off the fire commenced almost immediately by the local fire brigade. Since the extent of the fire was large, help from Bhavnagar Fire Brigade was called for at about 15.30 hours. The joint effort by Alang Fire Station and Bhavnagar Brigade continued from 16.30 hours till 06.30 hours on 23rd February, 2003, when the fire was brought totally under control.